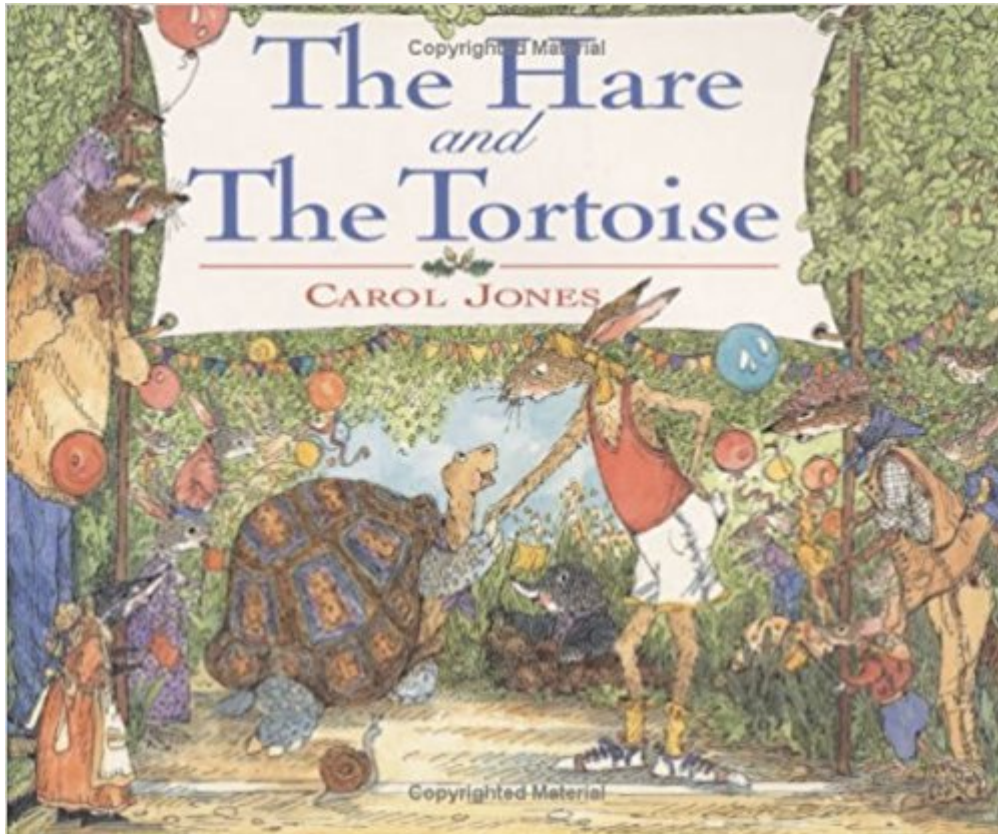




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The Hare And The Tortoise



Synopsis

Events are cleverly foreshadowed by a die-cut hole on each page in this retelling of a favorite Aesop's fable.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD620L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers (September 30, 1996)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0395813689

ISBN-13: 978-0395813683

Product Dimensions: 8.6 x 10.4 x 0.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces

Average Customer Review: 3.1 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,132,577 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #21 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Reference > Citizenship](#) #488 in [Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Other](#)

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

PreSchool-Grade 3? Jones applies the same peek-hole format she used in *This Old Man* (1990) and *The Cat Sat on the Mat* (1994, both Houghton) to her version of this classic fable. Here, the die-cut holes are more of an ornamental gimmick than an integral part of the book. The visual strength lies in the colorful line-and-wash paintings. The story can easily be told through the playful illustrations. Each spread is filled with humorous details that will keep young readers coming back for another look. The text, like the pictures, embellishes the basic story. This is not just a contest between the tortoise and an ordinary hare; this hare, possibly the "forest's first Olympic champion," is frequently featured in the sport's pages. Other animals play significant roles in the race. Purists may find that the extras detract from the story's action and moral, while fans of folklore updates will appreciate the contemporary humor. Those children who are already familiar with the original fable should have fun with this version. Janet Stevens's *The Tortoise and the Hare* (Holiday, 1984) is another amusing, modern, but more straightforward, version. ?Heide Piehler, Shorewood Public Library, WI Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Ages 5⁺-8. In this traditional retelling, a cocky rabbit challenges a plodding but persevering turtle to a foot race, which the rabbit loses through his own carelessness. In true storytelling fashion, Jones extends this usually succinct fable into a full-length picture-book presentation with the addition of minutiae as well as peripheral characters and events. The cluttered pen-and-ink with watercolor illustrations (reminiscent of the style of Peter Spier) perfectly complement the text, offering young listeners much to ponder. What sets this apart from other versions is Jones' use of peepholes--cut-out circles in the center of alternating pages that allow readers to keep both hare and tortoise in view at all times. The book will work best with primary-grade children already familiar with the story, who will enjoy poring over the visual details. Kay Weisman

I was delighted when I found this delightful version of *The Tortoise and the Hare*. I needed it for a premium for a seminar. It came on time but on the inside first page was written in ink: To Boubi from Bobby. Though I used it, I apologized to the crowd: "Sorry, I paid a too much for this new book, but sent me a used book"!

At first, the hare is not as inconsiderate and boastful, nor the tortoise quite as virtuous as Jones might have us believe in her version of the fable. In fact, I thought this might become a parody of the moral about the race not always going to the swiftest (maybe the fitter hare might win for once). However, the two animals take their customary roles after this initial originality. It's the familiar tale after all, with some reworking of the pieces. Illustrations are quirkily interesting, colorful though not vibrant, and a bit too cluttered. Jones shows a deft narrative touch when she describes the other animals helping Tortoise ("A family of frogs jumped into their pond and splashed water all over Tortoise to cool him down."), and she pulls off an exciting finish line. Neatly cut holes in the center of each page (the pages resemble a collection of old 45 vinyl sleeves) reveal the center of the facing illustration. This is a nice, slightly updated rendering of the fable that younger kids will especially enjoy, but it's not as satisfying as it might have been.

Book was needed for my daughters college class. Recieved the book very promptly so she could begin the project right away! Was a book that children love to hear as it is a classic. Very colorful illustrations which kept childrens attention.

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